DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 282 709 RC 016 281

AUTHOR Bennett, Ruth, Ed.; Davis, Shan

TITLE Karuk Stories.

INSTITUTION California State Univ.-Humboldt, Arcata. Center for Community Development.
SPONS AGENCY Office of Bilingual Education and Minority Languages Affairs (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE 84
NOTE 48p.; For related document, see RC 016 276-282.
PUB TYPE Creative Works (Literature,Drama,Fine Arts) (030) -- Historical Materials (060) -- Multilingual/Bilingual Materials (171)
LANGUAGE English; Karuk

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adult Education; *American Indian Culture; American Indian Education; *American Indian Languages; American Indians; Bilingual Instructional Materials; *Cultural Background; Elementary Secondary Education; *Legends; *Native Language Instruction
IDENTIFIERS California; *Cultural Literacy; *Karuk; Karuk (Tribe); UNIFON Alphabet

ABSTRACT

Three illustrated stories from the Karuk Indians of northwestern California are told in free English translation and in Karuk with literal English translation. Stories tell of Bluejay who pretends to be sick to get higher pay for doctoring the person she is making sick, how the Karuk learned to kill the fattest deer, and the waterdog who kills the one he hates. (LFL)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED282709

KARUK STORIES

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Ruth Bennett

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

RC 016281

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

Table of Contents

Bluejay Story 1

Deer Story 24

Waterdog Story 35

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Produced By

Title VII
The Bilingual Emphasis Program
The Center for Community Development
Humboldt State University
Arcata, California 95521

Karuk and English Translations by:

Shan Davis

Layout and Design by:

Patricia Grantham

Drawings by:

Lynn Shaw

Editor:

Ruth Bennett

1984

Bluejay Story

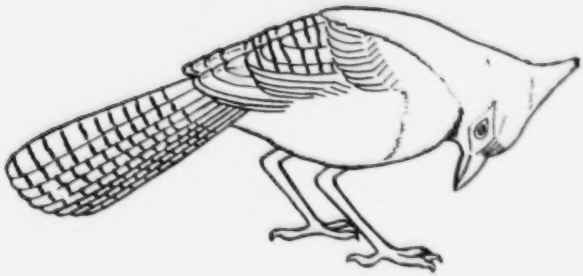
5

Some Karuk people were living at a place along the Klamath River in Northwest California. Some of the people lived alone. Once a person who lived by herself got sick.

Bluejay lived there too. She was a doctor and a sorcerer. When the people went to ask Bluejay to come and doctor the sick one, Bluejay surprised them. She told them she was sick herself. They could see she was hurting because there were ashes on her, and ashes were put on the sick when they were being doctored.

Even though Bluejay was hurting, she went to doctor. When she got to the person's house, the sick woman was lying there. To doctor her, Bluejay had to remove an object from her body. A devil had used sorcery to put the object in the person to make her sick.

Then they started to doctor. They started to sing. Bluejay was trying very hard. She doctored the sick one by sucking on her.



Bluejay removed the object that was used to devil the sick woman. Then she said she could feel someone thinking, "I wish the healed person would lie back down and be sick again." In fact, Bluejay was the one who was devilling her!

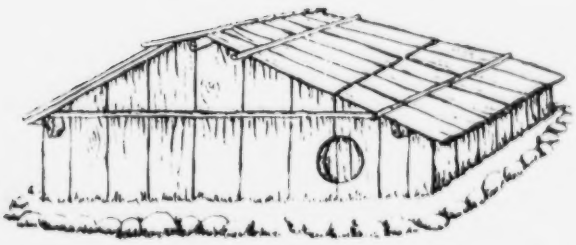
Now Bluejay said, "Give me acorns, already cracked, for pay." She wanted them already cracked because that way it was easier to make acorn soup.

Bluejay took the cracked acorns and left. When she arrived home, she put ashes on herself again, playing sick.

When the person Bluejay had doctored got sick again, the people came to get Bluejay as before. Again she came, and acted the same way as before. Bluejay said the sick person was being hurt by the same devil, one who was thinking bad thoughts and making her sick.

Bluejay doctored by sucking again. This time she asked for hazelnuts for pay.

They gave Bluejay the hazelnuts, and then the sick person got well. Bluejay once more returned home.



Now you see how Bluejay acts! She pretends to be sick, to get higher pay for doctoring. She pretends to cure a sick person, when really her thoughts are making the person sick. And she gets more than one payment by curing the person and then making her sick again!

(The following lines are a refrain told at the end of stories like this one. The second line is a variation of the first.)

"Quickly, now, Spring Salmon, sing up river.

"Quickly, now, Spring Salmon, go upriver and sing.

"Quickly, now, green grass, may you grow up."

ᗜᗰ ᛕᛟᚿ

they there

ᛕᗜᚿ-ᛟᚱ-ᚱᛟᚱ-ᚱᑌ-ᚺᛁ-ᛏᛁ.

were living

ᔑᛟ-ᐯᗜ-ᚱᑌ ᑭᛟᚿ-ᑭᐞ ᑌᚷ-ᗰᐞ

then a little later all alone

ᖵᛁᛞ-ᛞᑌ ᗜᗰ ᛏᗜ-ᖵᛁ-ᛕᛁ-ᚺᑌ.

one she got sick

ᗜᗰ ᛕᛟ-ᚱᗜ ᛕᛟᚿ

she also there

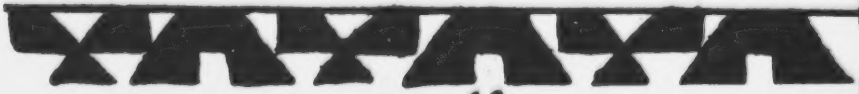
ᛕᗜᚿ-ᛟᚱ-ᚱᛟᚱ-ᚱᑌ-ᚺᛁ-ᛏᛁ.

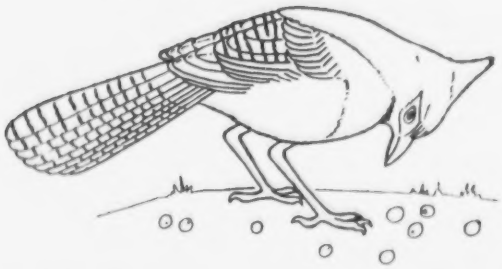
was living

They were living there.

Then, a little later, a person who was living all alone got sick.

She was living there too.





KUJ-U-KOJ UM Δ-ΔM

Bluejay she doctor

KO-RU UP-PU-RU-VON.

and sorcerer

XUC KUN-P+K-KOR.

then they went to get her

Bluejay, she was a doctor and a sorcerer.

Then they went to get her.

YUN-NU-VO!

Surprise!

Ꭴ-KᏫ-H+-TI VI-RI

she was hurting was

ᎤM ᏗO-VᏫ-RU.

she also

ᎤM PᏫ-IH-V-R+K

she answered

UM-TOP TᏫ-IV-TOP.

ashes were on her

Surprise! She was also sick, she was hurting.

When they asked her to doctor, she answered that ashes were on her.

Ꭴ-KᏫ-HᏂ-TI
she was hurting

KO-RI-XUC Ꭴ-VO-RUM.
and then she went

XUC, YUN-NU-VO,
then surprise

PU-KᏫ-HI-TI-HON
the sick one

Ꭴ-ΘON-NᏂV.
was lying there

UP-PᏫ-RᏭN TᏫ-ΔᏗ-ᏗᏫR.
the thing he uses she had to remove
to devil with

She was sick. Then she went to doctor.

Then, there she was! The sick one was lying there.

Bluejay had to remove the thing that was used to devil her with.

KO-RI-XUC TΔ-+T-TOM
and then now
O-VUC-MO-VU-HΔN.
they started to doctor
KO-RI-XUC
and then
TUK-KON-POK-KO-RI-VU.
they started to sing
VO-RU TO-POX-X+Ↄ-KON-VU
and she was trying very hard
KO-RI-XUC O-POT-TOM-KQ.
and then she sucked on her
(she doctored her)

Then they started to doctor. Then they started to sing.
And Bluejay was trying very hard. Then she doctored the sick one,
she sucked on her.

UP-PƆ-RƆN Ɔ-ΔƆ-ƆƆR.

the one he uses to devil with — she removed

KO-RI-XUC Ɔ-PIIP

and then — she said

ƆM VƆ-RU VO-Pᐞ

she — indeed — this one

OR-ROR-RU-IN KƆN-XƆ-T+

somebody — they are thinking

KI-RI O-PƆN Ɔ-ΘON-N+V.

I wish — down — she would lie there

Bluejay removed the object that was used to devil the sick person with. Then Bluejay said she could feel someone thinking, "I wish the healed person would lie back down."

ƆM VƆ-RU VO-PΔ

she indeed this one

TU-KƆN-U-PUR.

they are devilling her

PΔ-ƆM XƆR-R+S

now acorns already cracked

KON-NU-UK-KI-H+ +S-SUV

give me for pay

C+P. XƆR-R+S KƆN-UK-KI.

acorns already cracked they gave her

KO-RI-XUC ƆP-VO-RUM.

and then she went home

Indeed, Bluejay was the one who was devilling her!

Now she said, "Give me acorns, already cracked, for pay."

They gave her acorns, already cracked. Then she went home.

PO-YU-VO O-IP-MO KOK-KOM
and then she got home again

VO-RU VO-O-KOOP-HU.
and then she did that way

KO-RI-XUC KOK-KOM
and then again

KON-P+K-KOR.
they went after her

KOK-KOM TQ-U-HQ.
again she came

And then she arrived home again, and then she acted that way.

Then, again, they went after her to doctor the sick one.

Again, she came.

XUC KOK-KOM VO-O-PIIP

then again she said

OM VO-RU OR-ROR-RU-IN

she indeed somebody

KON-XO-T+. XUC

they are thinking then

KOK-KOM PU-Δ-ΔM

again sucking doctor

O-U-HQ. XUC PU-YΔM

she came then now

OM O-Θ+Θ-XON-TU-PON

it hazelnuts

KON-NU-UK-KI-H+.

give me

Then,again, she said, "Someone is thinking those same thoughts."

Then, again, she came and doctored by sucking.

Then, this time, she said, "Give me hazelnuts."

XUC KON-UK-KI

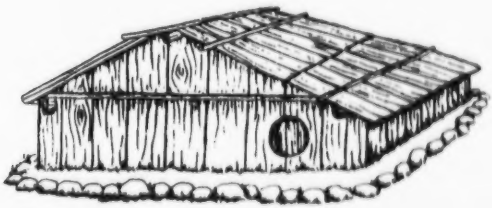
then they gave them to her

XUC O-OR-ROR-RI-KON-HU

then she got well

XUC KOK-KOM OP-VO-RUM

then again she went home



Then they gave them to her. Then the sick person got well.

Then Bluejay returned home.

PƱ-YU-VO!

Surprise!

Ƴ-KƱƱP-HON-NꞂK KUƆ-U-KOƆ

she did that way Bluejay

KƱ-PON-NO-KON-NU-KO-NO

that's the end of it

See how she is!

She did that way, Bluejay.

That's the end of it.

ↄΔↄ-+K IM-SIIN NQ-VΔS
quickly sing upriver
+S-YOT.
spring salmon
ↄΔM-YOↄ +K-VO-RU +S-YOT
quickly indeed spring salmon
IM-SIIN NQ-VΔS.
sing upriver
ↄΔM-YOↄ +K-VO-RU
quickly indeed
O-TƆ-ↄO-K+N-NUↄ
green grass
I-ON-NOP-RU-VΔS.
may you grow up

"Quickly, now, Spring Salmon, sing upriver. [1]

"Quickly, now, Spring Salmon, go upriver and sing.[2]

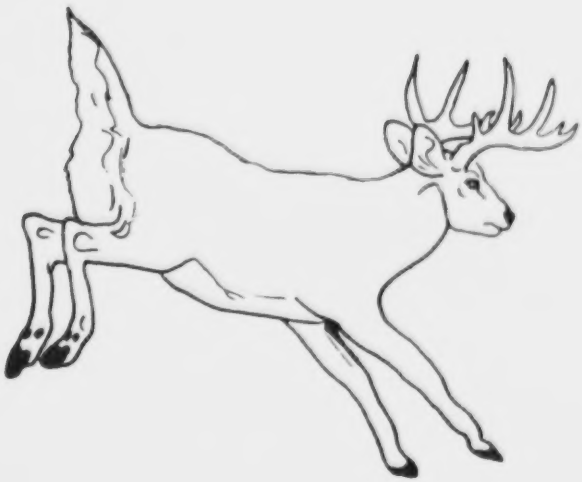
"Quickly, now, green grass, may you grow up."

(Line 2 is variant of Line 1)

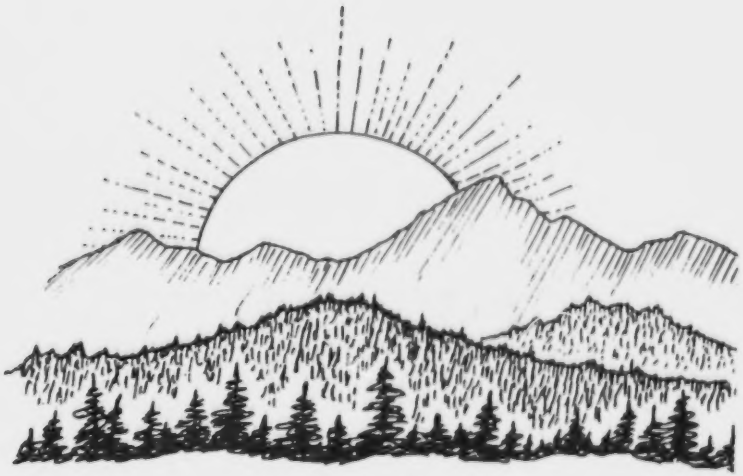
Deer Story

This story happened at the center of the world where the Karuk people live, in the Klamath River country. Karuk people have a god they call ⊬KXURΔYU. He did many things, all according to the way that Indian gods are supposed to do. One time he did something that I am going to tell you about now.

He went hunting. Then he talked to a Karuk man. He said, "All right, at dawn, walk downriver. The deer will arrive up the river from where we are, from the upriver end of the river.



"I will kill the best deer, while it is still early in the morning, and the sun is not yet high in the sky. This is the way I will succeed in killing the fattest deer."



Indian god told this to the Karuk man so that the man would know the best way to hunt. Indian god wanted to help the Karuk man to kill the fattest deer, so that he would have enough food to feed his family.

This is the news! This story tells what Indian god did in the Klamath River country at the center of the world, where the Karuk people live.

XUC ⊔M KO-RU
then he also

VO-KON-KOOP-HON-+K QK
they once did that here

I-Θ+V-ΘON-NΔN O-Ↄ+P.
at the place middle

+K-XUR-RΔ-YU ⊔M KO-RU
Indian God he also

VO-⊔-KOOP-HON-+K.
he did that way

XUC VO-⊔-KOOP-HU.
then he did this

XUC ⊔-UK-KON-VOR.
then he went hunting

Then, he also did this way, here in the center of the world.

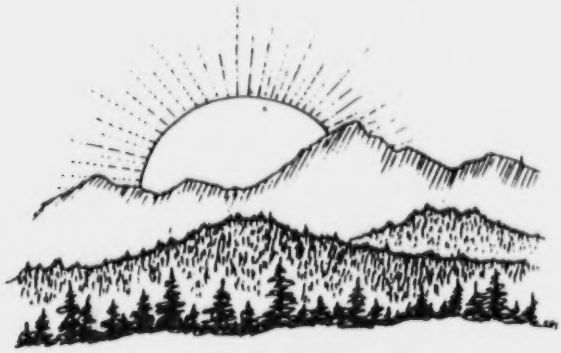
Indian God, he also did that way, then he did this. Then he went hunting.

XUC O-PIIP
then he said

TQM-KUT-TUX-RO-VOR-RUK
at dawn

ƆƚM-MI ꓤR-ROK
all right downriver

URI-ROPI.
walk down the river



Then he said, "All right, at dawn, walk downriver.

PA-NUN-NO-UV-VO-KOM
here above us (sky)

VU-POF-F+C KOR-ROK
the deer from upriver

I-PON O-UHQ-V+S.
end will arrive

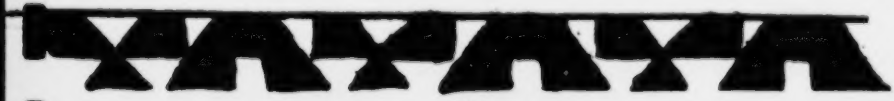
VI-RI-VO NIY-KUR-RAS.
then I will kill him

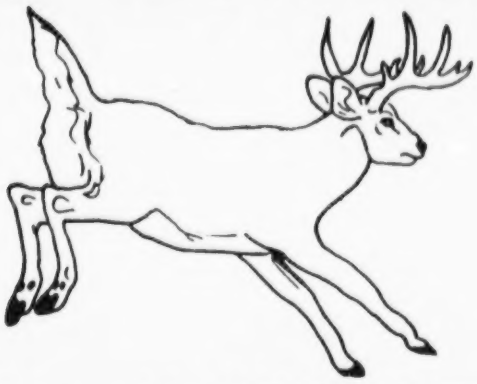
POF-F+C YA-SIP
deer the best

NIY-KUR-RAS PO-VO
I will kill him not

U-VON-I-H+C PU KOC-RU.
high the sun

The deer will arrive here above us, from the upriver end of the river. Then I will kill him. I will kill the best deer, while the sun is still not high.





VO-PO UΘ-KOR-RI-TUR
the the fattest

VO NIY-KUR-RΔS.
so I will kill him

PO-YU-VO! I-Θ+V-ΘON-NΔN
Surprise! at the place

O-Ↄ+P VΔ-+K-XUR-RΔ-YU
middle Indian God

VO-O-KOOP-HON-+K.
he did that way

Thus I will kill the fattest deer."

Surprise! At the center of the world, this is the way Indian God did.

Waterdog Story

Sometimes it happened that a Karuk person wanted to do somebody in. His motive might be revenge, or self-defense, or he might have had another motive. We don't know. Perhaps the old people knew.

The old people, our grandparents, knew the words to say, and they told the words to us.

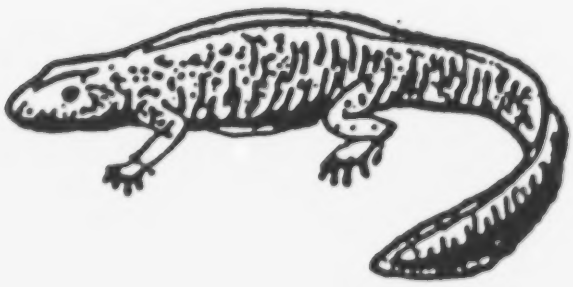
When we read this story, we are not sure who is saying what to whom. We only know that somebody saw a waterdog, and told what he saw:

In the center of the sky there was a large waterdog.

The one who saw the waterdog knew about the waterdog's power; he knew he had the power to do somebody in. He told the waterdog:

"Indeed, I know about you in the center of the sky, you who are a large waterdog."

Then the waterdog said, "Let's bite the heart out of this person, of the one who hates me. Then, indeed, he will not live another year, the one who hates me."



The waterdog repeated his words, so that it would be known that he meant what he said:

"Then indeed, may he not live another year, the one who hates me."

There is an avenger in this story, who may also be a victim, and a waterdog who is the one who does in the one who hates.

We who know about the waterdog know that this hatred may be a legitimate reason for the waterdog's act of killing; but knowing the waterdog, we know also that he may just be using this as an excuse for killing someone.

KÕ-RU PᐃNUN-NU-O-VU-KOM

then here above us (sky)

PU O-ↃᐩP KΔↃ ΘUF-ΘOM

the middle large waterdog

Then, in the sky, in the center of the sky, there was a large waterdog.

XUC O-PIIP
then he said

"ↄ+M-MI KON θO-V+T-SON
let's me bite out

PU-MO +θ-VΔ,
his heart

PO-IIN NO-VI-H+-TI.
the one who hates me

VI-RI VO-RU PO
then indeed he

+P-HUR-RI-NΔ POM-MΔS-HUR-RU
another year will not live

PO-IIN NO-VI-H+-TI".
the one who hates me

Then, he said, "Let's bite out the heart of this person, of the one who hates me. Then, indeed, he will not live another year, the one who hates me."

YO-KUN NO-NI-O-PUN-MU-T+

indeed I know about you

IM PΔ-NUN-NU-O-VU-KOM

you here above us (sky)

PU O-ↄ+P KΔↄ ΘUF-ΘOM.

the middle large waterdog

"VI-RI VU-RU PU

then indeed he

+P-HUR-RI-NΔ PUM-MΔS-HUR-RU

another year will not live

PO-IIN NO-VI-H+-TI."

the one who hates me

Indeed, I know about you, in the center of the sky, you who are a large waterdog.

"Then, indeed, may he not live another year, the one who hates me."